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(54) Defective nozzle compensation

(57) An image recording apparatus (200) is disclosed, which comprises forming elements (2002) for forming an image, a memory (2006) indicating relative desirability of utilising the forming elements (2002) for forming the image, and processing means (2008) for

computing image recording signals using input image signals (2012) and the stored data. The use of a particular forming element is thereby biased dependent upon the relative desirability data of other forming elements, the corresponding input signal for the particular forming element, and a term for the particular forming element.

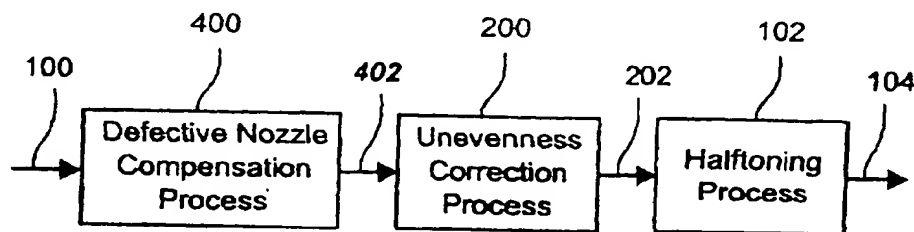


Fig. 4

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 4451

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 5 929 875 A (DANGELO MICHAEL T ET AL) 27 July 1999 (1999-07-27) * column 22, line 37 - line 44 *	1-12, 14-32	B41J2/05 B41J2/205 B41J2/21 H04N1/40
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A	EP 0 730 367 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) 4 September 1996 (1996-09-04) * the whole document *	1-12, 14-32	
X	EP 0 664 643 A (CANON KK) 26 July 1995 (1995-07-26) * the whole document *	13	
A	EP 0 781 034 A (CANON KK) 25 June 1997 (1997-06-25) * page 16, line 49 - page 17, line 13; figures 38,39 *	13	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B41J H04N
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 31 October 2001	Examiner Bridge, S
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 (02/02) (Pub/Cont)



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-12

PROBLEM : method of compensating; SOLUTION : biasing, for each first image value associated with a first nozzle, at least one second image value associated with another nozzle, said biasing being dependent upon said first image value and a term for said first nozzle

2. Claim : 13

PROBLEM : printing a multi-level half toned image; SOLUTION : adjusting a relationship using an error diffusion table

3. Claims: 14-15, 19, 20,
and (insofar as they depends on claims 14-15, 19,
20), claims 30-32

PROBLEM : use relative desirability data of forming elements; SOLUTION : image processing means using relative desirability data of forming elements

4. Claims: 16-18, 21-29,
and (insofar as they depends on claims 16-18,
21-29), claims 30-32

PROBLEM : bias the use of forming elements; SOLUTION : image signal modification means for redistributing values of said input image forming signal based on said data stored in said memory means so as to bias the use of said forming elements

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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31-10-2001

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82